

©

HISTORICAL SKETCH  
OF THE  
TOWN OF ENFIELD,  
COMPILED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CELEBRATING  
THE  
CENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE,

JULY 4, 1876.

BY A. JOHNSON, GEO. H. BOOTH, AND L. H. PEASE, M. D.,  
COMMITTEE.

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CHARTFORD:

THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD Co., PRINTERS.  
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FOR MANY OF THE FACTS CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING SKETCH  
THE COMMITTEE ARE INDEBTED TO

J. RANDOLPH PEASE, Esq.,

TO WHOM THEY NOW TENDER THEIR HEARTY THANKS.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF ENFIELD.

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THE first settlers of Connecticut generally located themselves in the vicinity of some of the beautiful and fertile meadows that are interspersed along the borders of New England's noblest river. The cause of such selection needs no explanation, as those charming alluvial tracts were undoubtedly deforested when first discovered, and had long been the seats of aboriginal cultivation. The inviting appearance of those meadows, the superior facilities which they offered for immediate subsistence, soon peopled their borders; whilst the heavily timbered regions adjacent, though of a strong and rich soil, were in a measure neglected. That pleasant and valuable portion of country which lay against the (now Enfield) falls on the Connecticut, was granted to the town of Springfield by the General Court of Massachusetts as early as 1648; but, being covered with a heavy growth of timber, its settlement was not effected until nearly fifty years after the country above and below the falls had become the abode of civilization.

The first effectual attempt to settle the land near the falls, by the town of Springfield, was made in 1678, although a few grants had been made to individuals in 1674, and a saw mill had been erected at Freshwater by Major Pynchon, which was burnt by the Indians in 1675.

The territory now comprised in the town of Enfield was originally supposed to belong to the Colony of Massachusetts, and was claimed by that colony as falling within their jurisdiction, according to the line run by their surveyors, Woodward and Saffrey, and was attached to and made a part of the town of Springfield.

In 1679, the town of Springfield, at a town meeting held August 4th, authorized the settlement of a plantation at Freshwater River, and appointed a committee consisting of "John Pynchon, Samuel Marshfield, Thomas Stebbins, Senr., Jonathan Burt, and Benjamin Parsons, to grant out the land unto persons there to inhabit and to order and act all matters so that the place may become a town of itself."

In pursuance whereof the said committee held frequent meetings and made grants of land, house lots, field land, and meadow, to sundry persons who desired to settle there, the first of which actual settlers was John Pease and his sons, John and Robert, whose home lots were allowed to be two or three rods wider than the others, for the reason that they were the first settlers.

The Peases brought their families in the spring of 1680, and in the course of the season were followed by Simeon Booth, John Burroughs, Simeon Rumril, Daniel Collins, John Kibbe, Samuel Terry, Jr., Thomas Bancroft, Jonathan Pease, Isaac Gleason, Lot Killam, Rowland Thomas, James Haywood, William Booth, Isaac Meacham, John Bement, John Bement, Jr., Thomas Geer, John Fairman, Obadiah Abbe, Henry Abell, Joseph West, Samuel Merritt, Thomas Perkins, Jonathan Bush, Isaac Morgan, and John Pierce.

The settlers increased in numbers so that in 1683 they petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts to be made a town by themselves, as follows:

*"To the Highly Honored General Court of the State of Massachusetts, to be assembled at Boston on the 16th of May, 1683.*

"The humble petition of the subscribers sheweth that we, your humble petitioners, having had grants of land from the town of Springfield at a place below it called Freshwater Brook, and belonging to the said town of Springfield, by grant from the Honorable General Court, several years since, and having encouragement from said Springfield to be a distinct Society, and free from said town, they having by a clear and full vote manifested their readiness thereto, and that they will allow us to come to their Longmeadow Brook, and then

to run from the great river on an east line, and so to take all their land below their Longmeadow Brook on the south side of it, between it and the foot of the falls, in order to our becoming a society of ourselves; and when it shall so be they will release us wholly from Springfield, upon which some have made a beginning at Freshwater Brook already, and more are desirous to settle there if the place may be contrived and authorized to be a township, and may have suitable proportions of land granted them for that end; wherefore we make our humble address to this honored General Court for their countenance, protection, encouragement, and establishment, herein requesting the grant of such a tract of land there for a township as may capacitate the grantees to live comfortably thereon, that they may, through the Divine Benediction, be enabled to maintain and uphold the worship of God and His ordinances, and discharge all public dues which will necessarily occur when the place shall be settled. Beseeching your Honors for this end to consider the nature of the land which your Honors may have full information concerning, from the worshipful Major Pynchon and Springfield Deputies, who know it well.

That the best of the land which is not above a mile and a half in breadth, eastward from the great river, is woody and swamp land and must by hard labor be won for improvement, and then at the end of that mile and a half, and in some places not half a mile, the rest for about five miles eastward from the great river is generally piney and barren sandy land capable of no improvement, so that much of the land that must be improved will be six or seven miles from the great river to the mountain, and calls for a large tract of land for a township in this place, and needful to run out eastward ten miles from the great river, there being so much barren land within the tract, to gain the mountain, and some better land thereabouts, for to help to a subsistence; and thus submitting ourselves and our desires to this honorable assembly's prudent regulation and ordering what may advance the comfortable society and settlement, whether by empowering a committee to manage the affairs of the place for a while, and then

we humbly suggest the persons appointed by Springfield hitherto, as most meet, or otherwise as your wisdom and fatherly care shall prompt unto and confirm such immunities as may fortify us against the difficulties of so hard and woody a place, and that you may not want Divine Grace in your most weighty concerns, we shall ever pray.

John Pynchon,	Isaac Meacham,
Thomas Stebbins,	Rowland Thomas,
John Pease,	Elisha Kibbe,
Thomas Bancroft,	Daniel Collins,
Benjamin Parsons,	John Pease, Jr.,
Jonathan Burt,	Isaac Morgan.

To the truth of what is in this Petition asserted, so far as it concerns the concession of Springfield to them, we do attest by subscribing our hands this 12th day of May, 1683.

SAMUEL MARSHFIELD,  
JAPHET CHAPIN,  
BENJ'N PARSONS,  
*Selectmen of Springfield.*"

*Answer of the General Court to the above.*

"At a General Court held at Boston, May 16th. In answer to the Petition from Springfield and others, for a township a little below Springfield at Freshwater brook, this Court doth grant a township there to the petitioners, and such others as the Committee of this Court appoints shall (grant) to them, and the bounds of said plantation or township be from the lands Springfield hath granted them (viz.), from the mouth of the Longmeadow brook below Springfield, from thence to run southward by Connecticut river six miles, and the bounds or line between Springfield and this new township shall run off from Connecticut river upon a due east line ten miles from the mouth of said Longmeadow brook where it empties itself into the Great river, alias Connecticut river, and that this said town be called Enfield, and for the admittance of inhabitants, granting of allotments, and ordering all the prudential affairs of the said township, this Court appoint Maj.

John Pynchon, Lieut. Thomas Stebbins, Mr. Samuel Marshfield, Dea. Jonathan Burt, Dea. Benjamin Parsons, or any three of them, Maj. Pynchon being one, to be a committee who are fully empowered to manage all the affairs of said township till this court take further order, and that the said town be free from all payments of the country rates for five years from this time."

The committee as above named, proceeded to manage the affairs of the town, and appointed John Pease, Sen., Isaac Meacham, and Isaac Morgan, Selectmen, and to grant allotments to such as desired to settle there, lay out highways, etc., and on the 7th of April, 1684, set apart lands for the support of the Ministry and for schools. The land for the Ministry was laid out on the south side of the highway which runs out east from the middle of the town, 13 rods wide, where it is still to be found, and the school lands on the north side of the same highway, but whether the schools ever received any benefit from them is not known.

At a meeting of the Committee, the Grantees, and others, on the 18th March, 1679-80, it was unanimously agreed to purchase the land of the Indians, and in pursuance thereof, they procured the following Indian deed:

"To all people to whom these shall come: I, Totaps, alias Nottattuck, the right Indian owner of all the land on the east side of Connecticut river, from Asnuntuck, alias Freshwater river, to Umsquattauck, at the foot of the falls, being willing to accommodate the English (viz.), Lieut. Thomas Stebbins, Jonathan Burt, Benjamin Parsons, John Pease, William Dounton, Thomas Gould, and others who were settling a plantation about Freshwater river, do agree and fully consent to a sale and surrender of the greatest part of my land there to the said English and such others as shall there plant and settle, and therefore know ye that I, Totaps, alias Nottattuck, for and in consideration of twenty-five pounds sterling to me in hand paid by Major John Pynchon of Springfield, at and before the ensealing of this present wherewith I acknowledge myself fully satisfied and contented, have bargained and sold and by these presents do give, grant, bargain, sell, alien,

assign, enfeoff, and confirm unto the said Major John Pynchon in behalf of the said Lieut. Stebbins, Jonathan Burt, Benjamin Parsons, John Pease, Wm. Dounton, and Thomas Gould, their heirs, assigns, and successors, all that tract of land on the east side of Connecticut river which is against the falls from Asnuntuck alias Freshwater river, on the north, down southward along by Connecticut river side about 3 or 4 miles to the brook below the heap of stones, which brook is called by the Indians Poggetoffee, and by the English Saltonstalls brook, and so from the mouth of said Saltonstalls alias Poggetoffee, to run from the great river Connecticut directly east eight full and complete miles to the mountains, and the whole tract of land to be complete eight miles from the great river at the southerly and at the north end, also to run to the mountains east, with all the profits and advantages to the said tract of land belonging, whether woods, underwoods, brooks, water, stones, minerals, pastures, meadows, or marshes, and all the appurtenances to the same belonging, to have and to hold the above granted tract of land with all liberties and privileges appertaining thereunto, to the said Thomas Stebbins, Jonathan Burt, Benj. Parsons, John Pease, Wm. Dounton, and Thomas Gould, their heirs, assigns, and successors, and to their only use, benefit, and behoof, forever. And I, the said Totaps, alias Nottattuck, for myself and my heirs, do hereby covenant, promise, and grant to and with the said Thomas Stebbins, Jona. Burt, Benj. Parsons, Wm. Dounton, and Thomas Gould, their heirs and assigns, that I, the said Totaps, alias Nottattuck, at the time of ensealing hereof, was the true and sole lawful owner of the afore bargained premises every part thereof, and had in myself full power, good right, and lawful authority to grant, convey, and assure the same as above said, as a good and sure estate of inheritance, forever, without any condition, reservation, or limitation of use or uses, whatsoever: Except that I reserve to myself a liberty of hunting on the common land in the woods, and catching fish in the rivers, yet not so as to exclude the English thereto; also, and with this only exception, shall and will warrant and defend the same to the said Thomas Stebbins, Jona. Burt,

Benj. Parsons, John Pease, Wm. Dounton, and Thomas Gould, their heirs, assigns, and successors, against me, my heirs, or any Indians lawfully claiming the same, or any part thereof, and shall and will, at any time hereafter, do any further act or acts for the more full, complete, and sure making of the forebargained premises unto them, the said Thomas Stebbins, Jonathan Burt, Benj. Parsons, John Pease, Wm. Dounton, and Thomas Gould, their heirs and assigns, forever, according to the true intent hereof, and the laws of the Massachusetts jurisdiction. In witness whereof, I, the said Totaps, alias Nottattuck, have hereunto put my hand and seal this 16th of March, in the two and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign lord, Charles 2d, by the Grace of God, King of England.

TOTAPS alias NOTTATTUCK,  
His | | mark.

John Holyoak,  
Sam'l Marshfield,  
The mark X of Manandum, an Indian witness,  
Cogranasset, his N / mark, an Indian witness,  
Nassatuagua, his H mark, an Indian,  
Benjamin Hinton.

Totaps, alias Nottattuck, acknowledged this instrument his act and deed, relinquishing and resigning all his interest in the premises, this 16th of March, 1688.

Before me, JOHN PYNCHON,  
Assistant."

At a meeting of the inhabitants, on the 15th July, 1683, John Pease was chosen and sworn first constable of Enfield; and it was then agreed and concluded that the way for choosing constables yearly shall be that the old constable shall then, at a public meeting, nominate three such men, and only three, as he shall judge meet to succeed him, which three persons shall be put to the vote, and that man of those three who has the greatest number of votes of the inhabitants present, shall be the constable.

It will be noticed that the north bound of the land con-

veyed by Totaps' deed, is Freshwater river; the land north of that stream had been previously conveyed by the Indians in 1674, by a deed which describes the south bounds as "the riveret called Freshwater or Asnuntuck, including the meadows thereon to its head and thence eastward to the riveret called Scantick, up to the place where it comes down from the mountains and including the meadows on both sides of Scantick. The foot of the mountains is the eastern boundary."

In 1688 the first town meeting was held, and John Pease Jr., and Samuel Terry were chosen first Selectmen of Enfield.

At a town meeting in 1691, all inhabitants were ordered to attend town meetings for choice of officers on penalty of 2 shillings fine. Thirteen attending such meeting shall be a legal meeting. This vote making a quorum of 13 has never been annulled.

After the incorporation of the town as above, the people seem to have been occupied with their own internal affairs, settling the boundaries of their several grants of land, laying out highways, building bridges, establishing ferries, organizing the church, building a meeting-house, settling ministers of the Gospel, organizing schools, building school-houses, and conducting the general affairs of the town in a very orderly and generally peaceable manner, although a long and bitter controversy between the Colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut with regard to the boundary line between the two Colonies, occasioned by the erroneous survey of the Massachusetts surveyors, Woodward and Saffrey, they claiming the line to run below the falls at Warehouse Point, and Connecticut claiming (and justly too), that the line should be at the mouth of Longmeadow brook, and thence due east. In this controversy the highest style of diplomacy was displayed, and the best talent of the two colonies was engaged, and the records of their doings will furnish to some future historian a rich field for research, and of course the people of Enfield were deeply interested in the struggle till its final settlement in 1749, by Massachusetts relinquishing their claim to the greater portion of the land in dispute, although she still occupies a consider-

able tract of land which justly belongs to Connecticut, extending from the monument near the north line of Mr. Sword's farm to a point about 40 rods south of Longmeadow brook.

It is true that in 1715 Massachusetts gave to Connecticut 95,793 acres of land as an equivalent for the land wrongfully occupied by them in Woodstock, Enfield, Somers, and Suffield, which land Connecticut sold for the sum of 683 pounds sterling.

In 1749 Connecticut received the above named towns into their jurisdiction, and the first representatives from Enfield to the General Assembly, were Capt. Ephraim Pease, and Capt. Elijah Williams, to the October session of that year, and the town has been annually represented there to this time.

The following is a partial list of those who have served as Representatives to the General Assembly of Connecticut, many of them serving several times; the names of the first serving in 1749, have already been given; 1789 and following:

Isaac Kibbe,	Eliphalet Terry,	Daniel Perkins,
Lemuel Kingsbury,	Henry Terry,	Elam O. Potter,
John Taylor,	William Dixon,	Jabez Collins,
Lorain T. Pease,	Eph'm P. Prudden,	David Gates,
Henry Kingsbury,	John King,	Jared Brainard,
George Allen 2d,	Samuel Booth,	Jabez King,
Jabez T. Taylor,	James Dixon,	Charles Clark,
Albert Clark,	Jonathan Pease,	Erastus Olmsted,
William E. Dixon,	Joseph P. Converse,	James Alexander,
Aholiab Johnson,	Sam'l T. Thompson,	Ephraim Potter,
George Killam Jr.,	Parsons Henry,	Wolcott Abbe,
Albert King,	Asaph King,	Omri G. Carrier,
William H. Osgood,	Albert Olmsted,	Henry Gowdy,
Robert B. Morrison,	Dan. T. Chapin,	Charles H. Briscoe,
Manly S. Snow,	Robert McCron,	John L. Houston,
Timothy W. Pease,	Calvin O. King,	Reuben A. Pease,
Harry A. Grant,	David Brainard,	Seth Terry,
Theodore B. Potter,	Alexander Law,	Theodore W. Pease,

George S. Miller, J. Warren Johnson, Rufus Stratton,  
 Royal A. Fowler, William Gordon, David Doig,  
 Albert W. Allen, Joseph N. Allen, John Law,  
 Edward Hoskins, George Simpson, Theodore I. Pease,  
 Lyman Upson, Ephraim Bridge, Niles Pease, John R. Booth.

The town of Enfield has also furnished members of the State Senate, as follows: Jabez King, Joseph P. Converse, Joseph Olmsted, Jr., Charles H. Briscoe, Calvin O. King, and Chester Johnson.

Among prominent men in the early history of the town, was John Pease Jr., son of the first John Pease, a surveyor by profession, was employed by the Salem colony to the plantation previous to settlement. He surveyed and laid out the town plat, and lots of proprietors, and is the person to whom the town is indebted for its present broad street. He was first constable after the organization of the town, first Captain of Militia, Selectman, and first Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, and was indefatigable in his labors to advance the prosperity of the town.

Samuel Terry, ancestor of all the Enfield Terrys, was the first man married in the settlement, became a prominent man in the town.

Isaac Kibbe, only son of Isaac Kibbe the first male born in town, was an enterprising business man, kept a public house and store, and was contractor for building the meeting-house now used as a town-house, and held various important offices. The name has now become extinct in this town, but numerous in the vicinity.

The population of Enfield has pretty steadily increased as will appear by the following table, as ascertained from the several census returns:

In 1756, 1050.	In 1800, 1761.	In 1840, 2648.
1774, 1353.	1810, 1846.	1850, 4460.
1782, 1551.	1820, 2065.	1860, 4997.
1790, 1800.	1830, 2129.	1870, 6322.
In 1876, probably more than 7000.		

The rapid increase of population for the last thirty years, is undoubtedly owing to the establishment of manufacturing operations, especially those of Carpets and Gunpowder. The former was commenced in 1828, and the latter several years later, each giving a great impulse to business generally in the town, and largely building up the two villages of Thompsonville and Hazardville, the latter almost entirely built up since the building of the Powder Mills there. The wealth of the town has also increased in about the same proportion. The Grand List in 1775 being about 25,000 pounds or \$84,000, and in 1875 \$2,635,248.

The first minister of the Gospel settled in the town, was Rev. Nathaniel Collins, who was ordained in 1699, as appears by the following extracts from the town record.

1699. "The town at this meeting declared their willingness by a clear vote to accept of Mr. Collins to be their minister to preach the word of God among us here at Enfield, and so in convenient time to carry on the whole work of the ministry among us here at this place. Also Mr. Collins declareth his willingness to do the aforesaid work as God shall enable him to do.

"The town by a full and clear vote express their willingness that Mr. Nathaniel Collins be ordained pastor of the Church of Christ here, and also the town do grant him twenty pounds in our pay, as we raise among us this to be paid yearly, and every year. The town also engage to clear and bring into improvement the land which the town formerly engaged on which the house stands, and also the town engages to give Mr. Collins twenty pounds towards finishing his house, and also give twenty pounds towards building a barn as soon as they can." (The above named land is now owned and occupied by Mr. John S. Parsons.)

"At a legal town meeting held on the 21st day of March, 1721-2, Voted to give Mr. Collins one hundred pounds (in case he will not take up with less), and wholly lay down the work of the ministry among us and quit the town of all former obligations that have been between him and the town heretofore in respect to his salary or any other obligation in that regard thereunto."

The successors of Mr. Collins in the ministry have been—

- Rev. Peter Reynolds, who died 1768;
- “ Elam Potter, was dismissed;
- “ Nehemiah Prudden, who died 1815;
- “ Francis Le Baron Robbins, died 1850;
- “ C. A. G. Brigham, dismissed;
- “ A. L. Bloodgood, dismissed;
- “ K. B. Glidden, acted as pastor;
- “ Cyrus Pickett, dismissed;
- “ Nathaniel H. Eggleston, acted as pastor;
- “ George W. Winch, the present pastor.

From the first settlement to the year 1770 one minister and one meeting-house had sufficed for the religious wants of the town. In that year some of the church seceded and formed a church and society called Separates, and built a meeting-house which was never finished, and in 1840 was demolished.

In 1772 the contract for building the meeting-house (now the town house) was made with Isaac Kibbe, who agreed to build and finish the house by New Years day, 1775, for 1100 pounds lawful money and receive for pay, corn at 2 shillings, wheat at 4, rye at 3 per bushel, pork 3 pence, beef 2 pence, bull beef excepted, tobacco if raised in town at 18 shillings per hundred pounds, any person that wished having the privilege of paying money instead of said articles.

In the meantime various sects have arisen and come in, so that within the limits of the original town, exclusive of Somers, which became a separate town in 1734, so that now there are two Congregational societies, two Presbyterian, two Methodist, two Episcopalian, two Roman Catholic, one Second Adventist, one Shaker, one Catholic Apostolic, and one Universalist, and a few scattered Baptists; so that it seems that all those who believe in any part of the Bible might worship to the satisfaction of their consciences, notwithstanding it is thought that a large portion of the people, judging from their conduct, belong to that great unorganized denomination called the Nothingarians.

The First Presbyterian meeting-house, in the village of

Thompsonville, was built in 1841; rebuilt in 1875. Their pastors have been Rev. Joseph Harvey, from 1839 to 1857; Carson W. Adams, 1857 to 1868; Henry F. Lee, 1869 to 1873; and Frederick S. Barnum, from 1874 to the present time.

St. Mary's parish (Episcopal) was formed, and the church built in 1863. The rectors in charge have been the Rev. Augustus Jackson, C. C. Adams, Leopold Simonson, and D. P. Sanford, the present rector.

The ministers in charge of the Methodist church, at Hazardville, since 1836, when their first records commence, have been the Rev. Messrs. Windsor, Ward, H. Torbush, M. Palmer, and —— Arnold, circuit preachers. Walter Wilkie, 1838; B. M. Walker, 1839; John Howson, 1840; Warren Emerson, 1841; Lyman Leffingwell, 1842-1843; Sewell Lamberton, 1844; C. W. Turner, 1845; William S. Simmons, 1846-1847; Abel Gardner, 1848; Charles Morse, 1849-1850; L. W. Blood, 1851-2; Carlisle S. Sanford, 1853-4; Anthony Palmer, 1855-6; George W. Rogers, 1857-8; William E. Sheldon, 1859; J. F. Sheffield, 1860-1; James Mather, 1862-3; E. B. Bradford, 1864; Charles A. Merrill, 1865-6; Robert Parsons, 1867-8-9; James Mather, 1870-1; E. H. Hatfield, 1872-3; Robert Clark, 1874. N. G. Axtell, 1875-6, present preacher. Their present meeting-house was dedicated in 1872.

The Methodist Chapel was dedicated in 1841. The ministers there have been Rev. John Howson, from 1840-41, to whom that society are indebted for the first building of their chapel, and who by his piety, perseverance, and gentlemanly and courteous manners, has become and still is one of our most respected citizens; L. W. Blood, 1842; M. P. Alderman, 1843-4; Robert Allen, 1845; Anthony Palmer, 1846-7; G. W. Stearns, 1848; John Howson, 1849-50; S. W. Coggeshall, 1851-2; Andrew H. Robinson, 1853; Samuel Fox, 1854-5; John D. King, 1856-7; Erastus Benton, 1858-9; John Lovejoy, 1860-1; Sanford Benton, 1862, died during the year; Robert Parsons, 1863-4-5; R. Donkersly, 1866; C. E. Mandeville, 1867; Ensign McChesney, 1868; John

Howson, 1869-70-1; J. T. Benton, 1872-3; Z. S. Haynes, 1874; J. D. King, 1875, the present pastor.

The Second Presbyterian meeting-house was built in 1846. The church was organized in 1845 by the name of the United Presbyterian Church of Thompsonville. The pastors of the church have been Rev. Peter Gordon until 1851; Rev. James McLaughlin till 1857; Rev. John M. Herron till 1858; Rev. W. B. Sutherland from July, 1866, to April, 1867; Rev. George M. Hall till 1872; Rev. Clark L. McCracken, the present pastor.

The North Congregational meeting-house was built in 1855 by seceders from the First Congregational Church, with Rev. C. A. G. Brigham, who continued with them till 1871, when he was dismissed. They have had no settled pastor since. Rev. Mr. Prince is now acting pastor there.

The Second Advent meeting-house, in the eastern part of the town, was built in 1858. Rev. Harvey C. Smith, the present minister, has preached there regularly since 1874.

The Catholic St. Patrick's Church, at Thompsonville, was dedicated in 1860, Rev. James Smith, of Windsor Locks, in charge. The pastors since have been, Rev. B. Tully, from 1862 to 1866; Rev. William E. Duffy, till 1871; J. Cooney, present pastor.

St. Bernard's Church, in Hazardville, was purchased in 1863, and has been under the charge of the priest in Thompsonville.

The Episcopal Church of Thompsonville was organized as a mission in 1851, and as St. Andrew's Parish in 1855. The church was built in 1860. The rectors have been, Rev. Samuel F. Jarvis, 1854-5; Rev. N. T. Gregory, 1855-62; Rev. Augustus Jackson, 1862-3; Rev. John E. Pratt, 1863-5; Rev. Henry Townsend, 1867-70; Rev. Emerson Jessup, 1871-2; Daniel P. Sanford, present incumbent, from 1874.

In 1683, the town voted to build a meeting-house 20 feet square, with studs  $10\frac{1}{2}$  feet, which house is supposed to have stood near or in the burying-ground.

"Nov. 28th, 1705. The town vote to build a meeting-house, and Serjeant Terry and Zachariah Booth agree to build and finish the same."

"Oct. 28th, 1707. Voted to seat the meetinghouse before they meet in it, and Capt. Meacham, Capt. Pease, Serjt. Parsons and Ensign Terry, together with the Selectmen were appointed to attend to that business."

In 1775 the third meeting-house, now used for a town house, was built, having a steeple, bell, and clock. The corner stone of the house now occupied by the First Society was laid June 13th, 1848, and completed and dedicated Feb. 14th, 1849, at an expense of about \$12,000, raised by individual subscription.

Since 1835, eleven other houses for religious worship have been built, and others are in contemplation.

The people of Enfield have always taken a deep interest in the education of youth from the time, in 1703, when they voted to pay John Richards fourteen pounds a year for keeping school, and if he continued to teach for five years, they voted to give him twenty acres of land as convenient to the school as might be; and Nov. 15, "same year, they voted to build a schoolhouse, to be 18 foot long, 16 broad, and 6 foot studs, in the most convenient place in the middle of the town."

The early settlers of the town were very careful about the character of their inhabitants, as appears by a vote of the town, May 10, 1722. "That no person in the town shall give nor sell any land to any stranger or foreigner without having first obtained liberty from the town or selectmen for the time being, for the same, on penalty of paying twenty pounds into the town treasury, for the use of the town, for every breach of this act."

In 1774, when the controversy between England and the colonies became sharp and exciting, the doings of the people of Enfield, in town meeting assembled, are recorded as follows:

"The Resolves of the representatives of this colony, passed in May last, was read in this meeting, and fully agreed to and acquiesced in, then further taking into serious consideration the present administration of the British colonies by and under exertion of Ministerial and Parliamentary power,

and particularly the surprising and unprecedented act of blocking up the port of Boston, etc., measures which have a direct tendency to the destruction of the British empire; and, if persisted in, must inevitably terminate in the subversion of our Constitution and total loss of American freedom; and while our hearts glow with the most filial duty and affection to our rightful sovereign, Lord George the 3d, and to his illustrious house, we feel the warmest sentiment of gratitude to those worthy gentlemen whose noble and patriotic zeal has animated them with such wisdom and firmness to oppose the torrent of oppression rolling like a flood upon us; we cannot but express our deepest concern and grief that men who are descended from the natural and known enemies of the House of the Brunswick succession, and who inherit the intrigue and malevolence as well as the honors and estates of their ancestors, should find such access to the Royal Ear, and by their subtlety and disguise alienate his Majesty's affections from his dutiful and loyal subjects; and while we consider that those who tamely submit to wear the shackles of slavery, or behold, with a supine indifference, all that is dear to us and posterity wrested from us by force, must be dead to the principle of self-preservation, callous to every feeling of humanity, and criminally regardless of the happiness and welfare of unborn millions. Therefore, Resolved unanimously, that a firm and inviolable union of the colonies is absolutely necessary for the defense and support of our civil rights, without which all our efforts will be likely to prove futile. That to facilitate such union, it is our desire that the committees of the several governments meet in a general convention at such place as shall be most convenient as soon as the circumstances of the distance and communication of intelligence will possibly permit, and the most effectual measures to defeat the machinations of the enemies of his Majesty's government and the liberties of America, is to break off all commercial intercourse with Great Britain and the West Indies, until all those oppressive acts of raising revenue in America be repealed."

Immediately after the fight at Lexington, on Wednesday,

the 19th of April, 1775, messengers were despatched in all directions to give the news. It will be recollected that in those days there were no railroads to carry passengers at the rate of 40 miles an hour, nor any telegraph wires to convey instantaneous information, and that a few years previously it required ten days traveling diligently for a man on horseback to reach Boston from Windsor.

One of those messengers reached Isaac Kibbe's tavern on Sunday following the fight, and announced the fact that the Redcoats had fired upon the Minute-men, and that fighting was going on all about Boston.

Mr. Kibbe procured a drum, and the people being in the meeting-house, the drummer marched around the meeting-house beating the long roll furiously. The meeting suddenly came to an end, and early the next day the following named persons commenced their march for Boston, viz:

Nathaniel Terry, Major.	John Simons, Capt.
Richard Abbe, Lieut.	Joseph Booth, Ensign.
Samuel Jones,	David Chandler,
Jonathan Bush,	Eliphalet Killam,
Daniel Kingsbury,	Elihu Geer,
Barzilia Markham,	John Simons, 2d,
	Corpo'l's,

Privates—Nehemiah Chandler, John Abbe, Samuel Pease, Joseph Gleason, Thomas Hale, Isaac Pease, Jacob Terry, Jr., Oliver Bush, John Pease, 2d, Moses Bush, Samuel Hale, Moses Warner, James Green, Edmund Bement, Seth Hall, John McClester, Peter Pero, Nathan Markham, Thomas Abbe, Daniel Burbank, Jabez Parsons, Hezekiah Parsons, Daniel Prior, Samuel Hemingway, John Chandler, Henry Booth, Benjamin Herrington, Benajah Griswold, Thomas Pease, Nathaniel Lamb, Solomon Gains, Aaron Waters, Richard Fairman, Zebulun Pease, John Crosby, Titus Fairman, Levi French, Ambrose Markham, Eliphilet Collins, Jacob Fairman, Josiah Blakesley, Jonathan Allen, Asahel Parsons, John Hale, Aaron Pease, Jr., John Morrison, Ebenezer McGregor, Jacob Shepard, David Phelps, Jr., Ebenezer Parsons, Asa Meacham, Peter Parsons, Isaac Markham, Gideon Pease, Shadrach Terry, Abram Whipple, Christopher Marshall, James Pease,

Samuel Kingsbury, Peter Raynolds, John Parsons, Daniel Terry. Some of the above-named never reached Boston, the Red-coats having retreated and the excitement somewhat subsided, and all reached home by Saturday night, except the following named persons, who proceeded, and probably remained in the vicinity of Boston all Summer and Autumn, for as late as November, we find Capt. Parsons writing from Hingham, for money wherewith to subsist his men. Hezekiah Parsons, Capt. Thomas Abbe, Lieut. Barzilia Markham Lieut. Samuel Hemingway, Serg't. John Chandler, Clerk. Jacob Shepard, Benjamin Herrington, Henry Booth, Corporals. Aaron Pease, Drummer. Privates, Daniel Prior, Benajah Griswold, Thomas Pease, Nathaniel Lamberton, Solomon Gains, Aaron Waters, Richard Fairman, Zebulun Pease, Gideon Pease, John Crosby, Titus Fairman, Levi French, Ambrose Markham, Jacob Fairman, Jonathan Allen, John Hale, John Morrison, Ebenezer McGregor, David Phelps, Jr., Ebenezer Hale, Ebenezer Parsons, Asa Meacham, Peter Parsons, Isaac Markham, and Christopher Parsons." The horses used in this expedition were charged for at the rate of two pence per mile, and their forage at the rate of nine pence per day.

The Town Records, so far as we have been able to examine, give but meager accounts of their doings during the Revolution, but there are some significant resolutions passed, as appears by the following:—

March 31, 1777. It was voted to choose a committee to take care of the families of those that shall engage in the service of the war, in their absence, then meeting adjourned to April 7, and then voted to raise forty dollars to be paid out of the town's treasures to each able bodied man that shall enlist into the Continental army, by the first day of May next, and the same sum to those already enlisted, to the number of forty-seven men: It also appears by the following vote, that the people of Enfield were Abolitionists at that early day, for "at the same meeting, voted that Joseph Kingsbury, Capt. Perkins, and Ensign Eliphalet Terry, be a committee to prefer a memorial to the Assembly in May next, praying that the Negroes in this State be released from their slavery and bondage."

At a meeting January 14, 1777, voted to raise a tax of six pence on the pound, on the list of 1777, for tents and soldier's wives.

June 25, 1779, voted to raise two shillings four pence, on the pound, on list of 1778, in money, to purchase clothing for the soldiers in the Continental army, and that a rate be made and collected forthwith.

In 1780, voted to pay able-bodied soldiers forty shillings per month on certain conditions, to be paid in wheat, at four shillings, rye, three shillings, or corn at two shillings per bushel.

In 1781, voted a tax of three and one half pence, or seven pence in States money.

The people of Enfield were nearly unanimous in favor of the American Revolution. The most conspicuous and patriotic individuals of those by-gone days were, Capt. Thomas Abbe, John Pease, Capt. David Parsons, Capt. Hezekiah Parsons, Nathaniel Chapin, Isaac Kibbe, Col. Nathaniel Terry, and Capt. Daniel Perkins. The following named persons belonging to Enfield, lost their lives in the service of their country, in the Revolutionary War.

Freegrace Billings, Edward Collins, John Allen, Jedediah Meacham, Benjamin Gains, Isaac French, Oliver Parsons, Lieut. Noah Phelps, Levi Terry, Oliver Pease, Joseph Hall, Nathaniel Pease, George Pease, and —— Varnum.

Town meetings were held as often as once in two months all through the war of the Revolution, mostly to devise ways and means for raising soldiers, paying them their bounties and wages, and providing for the support of their wives and families, during their absence, and they undoubtedly taxed-themselves to their utmost ability to effect those objects, but in the time allowed we have not been able to ascertain the number of men who actually went into the army from this town.

During that time, and at all other times, much attention was paid to the subject of education, and frequently, while raising a tax of one and a half pence for town charges, two pence on the pound were raised for schools. Much attention was also given to highways and to fisheries, in the great river, and to the ferries over the same.

In 1785, "voted that the Selectmen fence the Burying yard, the front and two sides of it, and Mr. Eliphalet Killam to fence the rear."

Due observance of the Sabbath was rigidly enforced, and annually numerous Tythingmen were appointed to keep order on that day.

About 1786, the early records of lands were copied by order of the town, and that duty was performed by Augustus Diggins, who was chosen Town Clerk that year.

In December, 1788, Mr. John Stores and Dr. Simeon Field were authorized to set up and carry on inoculation for small pox on the Islaud between Enfield and Suffield, called Copper Island. In 1789, a committee was appointed to make proper alphabets of the town books of Records, and in December of the same year, voted that the Selectmen have four shillings per day for each day in the town service the year ensuing, they bearing their own expenses.

In 1781, the Shaker system of Religion was introduced into Enfield, and the first proselytes were Elder Joseph Meacham, who had been a preacher to a small society of Baptists in the northeast corner of the town, his son David Meacham, Joseph Markham, Benjamin Pease, Justice Markham, Jahiel Markham, Samuel Eaton, Matthew Thompson, Eli and Elias Pease. The Shaker Society was organized about 1788.

The pay for labor on highways in 1794 was three shillings per day for a man and six shillings for man and team. In 1797, the town changed from pounds, shillings, and pence to dollars and cents, and in that year raised a tax of one cent and three mills for town charges and six mills to repair highways. Many votes are recorded in relation to domestic animals running at large on the highways and commons of the town, among which is one allowing swine to run at large, provided they are well yoked and ringed according to law, and one allowing geese to go at large from the rising to the setting of the sun, being well yoked with a yoke not less than twelve inches in length.

In 1802, Joseph Parsons and associates were allowed to set up iron and other works at the Bridge on Scantic River, near

the house of Isaac Pease. It also appears that iron works, clothiers' works, gristmills and sawmills had long previously been erected on Scantic river at and near where the powder works now are.

Among those admitted as freemen in 1812, which is the earliest record of that kind, only one is known to be now living, viz: " Benjamin B. Parsons."

The war with Great Britain, of 1812, made a little ripple in the usual calm of affairs in Enfield, and many men went into the army, the most noticeable, perhaps, being the company of seventy-four men under Captain Luther Parsons, who left Enfield on the 3d of August, 1813, for the defence of New London. Many other detachments went there for the same purpose, among which were the late Major Robert Morrison and Captain Jabez Collins. Not one who served in that war from this town are known to be now living, excepting Isaac Allen, now in Clarkson, State of New York.

The first bridge over Connecticut River at Enfield Falls was built about 1808, and Capt. Samuel Pease's record says the channel arch fell August 19, 1821, of old age. The second and present bridge was built in 1832, by the late William Dixon, aided by a lottery. First wagon crossed Nov. 28th, of that year.

The following named persons have served as Town Clerks, the dates being the time of the commencement of their services: 1700, Thomas Hale; 1714, Joseph Sexton; 1723, Zachariah Booth; 1729, Nathaniel Collins; 1735, Christopher Parsons; 1735, Ezekiel Pease; 1749, Elijah Williams; 1751, Edward Collins; 1786, Augustus Diggins; 1787, Edward Collins; 1788, Eliphalet Terry; 1812, Elam O. Potter; 1827, William Dixon; 1839, Jabez T. Taylor; 1849, Aholiab Johnson; 1858, Seth Terry; 1868, Theodore I. Pease; 1871, Frederick E. Ely, now in office.

Enfield was made a Probate District in 1831, and Ephraim P. Prudden was the first judge of that court, who served one year; William Dixon, three years; Lorin T. Pease, one year; Henry Kingsbury, three years; Aholiab Johnson, sixteen years; Hiram S. Belcher, two years; George C. Owen, one

year; Normand Allen, two years; Seth Terry, four years; William Olmsted, four years, and Frederick E. Ely, present incumbent.

The Canal at Enfield Falls was commenced in June, 1827, and loaded boats passed through it November 11, 1829. In 1835, December 1st, the Methodist meeting-house at Hazardville was dedicated. Loomis, Hazard & Co. commenced their powder mill there about the same time.

The Carpet Works at Thompsonville were commenced in 1828, by Orrin Thompson and his associates.

Although Enfield cannot boast of a great number of eminent public men, yet the thousands that have gone from her, together with their descendants, would at least people one great State, and it has also furnished one Governor of Texas and one Senator in Congress, and many of her children have filled important stations in the Church, in State and in the Army, while the founders of the villages of Thompsonville and Hazardville will be held in high honor by the people of this town for many succeeding generations.

In the war of the rebellion the town of Enfield was not found wanting in respect to their duty to the country, and responded promptly to every call, and sent into the army at various times not less than four hundred twenty-one men, (of whom 24 were three months men, 155 three years, 68 three years recruits, 48 three year substitutes, 79 nine months, 47 re-enlisted; of the whole number, 10 were killed in battle, 42 wounded, 17 died of wounds, 1 missing in action, 16 died of fevers, 13 died in Andersonville prison, 52 discharged for disability, 130 mustered out at the end of the war, 79 nine months men on expiration of term. Several men from this town also enlisted in other States who are not credited to this town,) and took care to provide amply for their wives and families during their absence, and as in the time of the Revolution, were ever found on the side of liberty, freedom, and justice, and in every war has furnished more men than her just proportion.

The climate of Enfield is and ever has been very salubrious, as is shown by the number of children raised there, the

average number in many families being ten, and also the great age attained by many. Of twelve men whose deaths are recorded previous to 1844, their average age exceeds ninety-four years, and doubtless others whose age is unknown or not recorded were of equal or greater age, and there are now (1876) living in this town at least five men whose ages are over ninety. The lives of females also are equally protracted. Of eight deaths recorded previous to 1828, the average age is  $95\frac{1}{2}$  years, and there are now living several more than ninety years of age, but how many is not known.

About 1713, the east part of the town began. The first settlers on Scantic river, Nathaniel Gary, who built a house and grain mill, Daniel Markham, near the iron works, Ger-shom Sexton, near the mouth of Sawmill brook, and John Gleason, who settled half a mile up the Scantic, and Thomas Perkins, the last, in what is now called Scitico.

The settlement of Wallup commenced about the same time, and the first settlers were William Bement and Josiah Col-ton, near Buckhorn brook, and Nathaniel Pierce, near the present residence of Norton Abbe; others settled on Scantic hills, in that part of the town, viz: Isaac Gleason, Israel Phelps, and Ebenezer Chapin, near where widow Peter Chapin now lives.

One hundred years ago there were five school-houses in town, and each contained one room, with desks fastened to one side of the room for writers, who sat upon benches made of heavy planks, supported by legs, and the small children sat upon low benches of planks, laid upon blocks. The rooms were warmed by open fire-places, supplied with wood furnished by the parents of the children, in proportion to the number sent. The wages of male teachers—who were exclusively employed in winter—averaged not more than ten dollars per month, and that of female teachers varied from seventy-five cents to one dollar and fifty cents per week, who, in addition to teaching reading and spelling, gave instruction in needle and knitting work, and the whole town then paid for support of schools, including what was drawn from the colony treasury, about five hundred dollars. Now there are sixteen school-

houses in town, three of which undoubtedly cost more than all the dwellings in town previous to the Revolution, and are fitted up with all the modern improvements, warmed with coal brought from other States ; the schools taught by teachers whose wages in one month exceed those then paid in the whole town during the year, and the town pays \$12,000 a year for schools, besides some \$300 for school visitors.

The history of the town for the last century is easily traced and soon told ; but what will be in the next, who can tell ?

Hoping that when the close of the second century from the organization of the town arrives, in 1883, you will have your oldest records re-written, and a full history of the town compiled and edited by some competent hand, we respectfully submit this brief sketch of history as our report.